

**From:** [Arjen Hoekstra](#)  
**To:** [BLM\\_OR\\_RMPs\\_WesternOregon](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Old Forests and Clean Water  
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Dear BLM Planning Team:

As you begin to revise planning for our 2.6 million acres of public forests in western Oregon, please consider protecting the remaining mature and old-growth forests. By doing so you will safeguard our water supplies, protect essential habitat for endangered salmon, mitigate climate change, and create new recreation opportunities for the future.

Restoration of degraded BLM forestlands could provide significant employment opportunity in the region. Thinning previously clearcut areas, decommissioning harmful roads and enhancing habitat should be the drivers of the planning revision. In no way, should the BLM forestlands be looked at as the sole source of county funding in western Oregon. This outdated model will only lead to false hope and unfulfilled funding goals.

Thanks for considering my comments as you move forward with this critically important process.

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